

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 /084 W  
-----041172 110916Z /11

R 110848Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8564  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 05337

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS : PINT, SHUM, TW  
SUBJECT : THE CONTINUING SAGA OF CH'EN CHU

REF : (A) TAIPEI 4310, (B) TAIPEI 4355,  
- (C) TAIPEI 4406

SUMMARY: CH'EN CHU HAS SURFACED AND HER REPORT OF  
MISTREATMENT AT TAIWAN GARRISON COMMAND HEADQUARTERS  
AND "INVOLUNTARY" STATEMENT IS BEGINNING TO CIRCULATE.  
FOLLOWING RELEASE SHE HAS RETURNED TO KUO YU-HSIN'S  
TAIPEI OFFICE, CONTACTED OLD FRIENDS, PLANS TO WRITE  
A BOOK AND MAY ATTEMPT TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE. WE  
EXPECT CONTINUED DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN HUMAN RIGHTS  
INTEREST IN HER CASE. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT  
CH'EN MAY BE ARRESTED AGAIN IF HER ACTIVITIES  
PROVE OFFENSIVE TO GROC. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY FROM  
CH'EN CHU HER VERSION OF EXPERIENCES DURING INTER-  
ROGATION AND CONFINEMENT AT TGGH. DETAILS WERE  
REVEALED DURING CHANCE MEETING WITH EMBOFF AND FROM  
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WRITTEN ACCOUNT COMPILED BY ONE OF CH'EN'S CLOSE  
ASSOCIATES (BOTH ACCOUNTS WILL BE POUCHED TO  
DEPARTMENT). WE BELIEVE DETAILS HAVE BEEN SENT TO  
KUO YU-HSIN AND OTHERS, AND WE EXPECT THEY WILL  
SURFACE IN NEAR FUTURE IN SYMPATHETIC U.S. PUBLICATIONS  
SUCH AS NEW YORK'S HSING DAO NEWSPAPER. FOLLOWING  
IS SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT DETAILS.

2. CH'EN WAS NOT PHYSICALLY ROUGHED-UP DURING HER INTERROGATION OR CONFINEMENT; HOWEVER, SHE WAS SUBJECTED TO FOUR DAYS AND NIGHTS OF QUESTIONING WITHOUT REST AND SOME PERSONAL HUMILIATION SUCH AS BEING STRIPPED FOR AN INSPECTION, AND DURING INITIAL QUESTIONING NOT ALLOWED TO BATHE. CH'EN CLAIMED AT ONE POINT SHE ATTEMPTED TO COMMIT SUICIDE BY BANGING HER HEAD AGAINST A BATHROOM WALL BUT WAS RESTRAINED BY GUARDS AND THEREAFTER KEPT IN PADDED ROOM. CH'EN WAS NOT PERMITTED ANY VISITS DURING HER STAY AT TGGH AND LETTERS SHE MAILED TO FRIENDS DURING THIS PERIOD WERE NOT RECEIVED.

3. THE GARRISON COMMAND INTERROGATION, CONDUCTED BY SEVERAL FOUR-MEMBER TEAMS COMPRISED OF MEN AND WOMEN, CENTERED ON (A) THE NAMES OF CH'EN'S FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES; (B) THE NATURE OF HER ALLEGED CONNECTIONS WITH THE TAIWAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT; AND (C) WHETHER OR NOT SHE WAS INVOLVED IN SMUGGLING A LETTER FROM LEI CHEN (1960 OPPOSITION PARTY LEADER) TO HONG KONG.

4. CH'EN STATED SHE WAS "TRICKED" INTO SIGNING HER "CONFESSIONS" (COMPILED FROM BITS AND PIECES OF HER WRITING PLUS MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY TGGH). AT  
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THE TIME SHE SIGNED THEM, SHE DID NOT EXPECT TO BE RELEASED. SHE ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN TRICKED INTO ATTENDING THE TWO NEWS CONFERENCES (REFS A AND B) BY BEING PROMISED THAT FOREIGN JOURNALIST FRIENDS WOULD BE PRESENT (THEY WERE NOT). CH'EN REGARDED THESE NEWS CONFERENCES AS GROC PROPOGANDA PLOYS TO WHICH SHE WAS AN UNWILLING ACCOMPLICE.

5. CH'EN HAS RETURNED TO HER ORIGINAL OFFICE, THE TRADING COMPANY WHICH SERVES AS KUO YU-HSIN'S TAIPEI OFFICE, AND HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH OPPOSITIONIST FRIENDS. CH'EN PLANS TO WRITE A BOOK ABOUT HER EXPERIENCES, AND ACCORDING TO SOME FRIENDS MAY ATTEMPT TO RUN FOR OFFICE IN THE DECEMBER ELECTIONS. (NOTE: THIS WAS ALSO CH'EN'S PLAN BEFORE SHE WAS ARRESTED.)

6. COMMENTS: PRESS RESPONSE. CH'EN'S ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING HER "RE-RELEASE" (LOCALLY DATED BY OPPOSITION-ISTS FROM THE TIME SHE COMPLETED THE TGGH TOURS) CONTINUE TO ATTRACT CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN PRESS CIRCLES. ALTHOUGH CH'EN'S VERSION OF ACTUAL EVENTS IS AVAILABLE TO JOURNALISTS, IT HAD NOT YET APPEARED

IN LOCAL PRESS. WE EXPECT MOST LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS  
IN NEAR FUTURE WILL BE GRADUAL FILTERING BACK VIA  
INTERNATIONAL PRESS OF ACCOUNTS RELEASED BY U.S. OR  
JAPANESE-BASED SYMPATHIZERS, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL  
OR CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES WHICH MAY BE CITED IN  
LOCAL PRESS.

7. OPPOSITIONIST REACTIONS. THERE IS MUCH LOCAL  
POLITICAL AND PRESS INTEREST IN HOW MUCH CH'EN MAY HAVE  
TOLD TGGH ABOUT INDEPENDENT POLITICIANS AND THEIR  
ACTIVITIES. BEFORE HER RELEASE, A LOCAL INDEPENDENT  
MAGAZINE EDITOR, REFERRING TO HER "CONFESSIONS,"  
TOLD US THAT INDEPENDENTS "FORGIVE HER WHAT WE KNOW  
SHE WAS FORCED TO SAY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES" AND  
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INDICATED THAT NO ONE WAS CONVINCED THAT SHE HAD  
REALLY ABANDONED HER CAUSE OR FRIENDS. NEVERTHELESS,  
CAUTIOUS INDEPENDENTS SUCH AS KANG NING-HSIANG HAVE  
APPEARED TO ATTEMPT TO ADOPT A POSTURE OF SUPPORT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 TAIPEI 05337

FOR HER RELEASE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RETAINING  
SOME PERSONAL DISTANCE. WE BELIEVE OPPOSITIONIST  
POLITICIANS, HOWEVER SYMPATHETIC WITH CH'EN, ARE

CONCERNED THAT AUTHORITIES MAY NOW HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR INTERRELATIONSHIPS. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRESSURE PLACED ON THE GROC WHICH EVENTUALLY RESULTED IN OBTAINING CH'EN'S RELEASE IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS A POLITICAL VICTORY FOR NON-PARTY POLITICIANS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ATTRIBUTE IT TO THEIR OWN POSTURE, U.S. INTERVENTION OR GROC CONCERN FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE.

8. GROC REACTION. THE GROC TOLD US (REF C, PARA 2B) THAT CH'EN CHU WOULD BE "PROTECTED" FROM HER OPPOSITIONIST COLLEAGUES WHO MIGHT WISH TO EXPLOIT HER IN THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THE GROC HAS PERMITTED HER TO RETURN TO HER COLLEAGUES, SPREAD AN UNFLATTERING VERSION OF HER TREATMENT UNDER DETENTION, PLAN TO INVOLVE HERSELF IN THE COMING ELECTIONS, AND PERHAPS EVEN TO BE A CANDIDATE HERSELF. LOCAL SPECULATION IS THAT SHE COULD BE RE-ARRESTED IF HER ACTIVITIES ARE TOO BLATANT. SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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THINK THAT CH'EN CHU MAY CHOOSE TO ESCAPE TO JAPAN RATHER THAN FACE A SECOND ARREST. IN THIS PRE-ELECTION PERIOD, A SECOND ARREST WOULD CONVEY A SHARP WARNING TO OPPOSITIONIST POLITICIANS AND PROVIDE THEM WITH A POLITICAL ISSUE; LETTING HER REMAIN FREE TO SPREAD HER STORY OF MISTREATMENT WOULD SIGNAL A LENIENCY, WHICH THE SECURITY SERVICES AND KMT MIGHT CONSIDER A DANGEROUS ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OPEN ATTACKS ON THE GOVERNMENT. IN EITHER CASE, CH'EN CHU AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECT OF HER CASE WILL BE PART OF THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT, IF NOT DEBATE, IN THE MONTHS TO COME.

9. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE REPORTS OF U.S. PRESS TREATMENT OF CH'EN CASE AND NATURE OF ANY INQUIRIES TO DEPARTMENT AND WHAT DEPARTMENT IS REPLYING TO PRESS AND OTHER INQUIRIES. UNGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014